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U.S. Serial No. 10/524,761
Date: September 8, 2006
Date of Office Action: June 13, 2006

Listing of the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Coin validator having a thread sensor which is disposed in the region of the coin insertion channel, and having a coin validating device for controlling the acceptance or rejection of an inserted coin, the thread sensor having a first toothing, which is disposed on a stationary part of the coin insertion channel, and a second toothing, which is disposed on a pendulum having pivotal movement about a pivot point, said toothings being disengaged upon insertion of a coin, and having a switching ~~device~~ arm which is in operational connection with the pendulum and emits a signal to the coin validating device upon insertion of a coin, characterised in that the pendulum is a component of a coin insertion funnel which is connected detachably to the housing of the coin validator as a wearing part and forms part of the coin insertion channel, the pivot point of the pendulum, which is articulated on the remaining part of the coin insertion funnel, is offset laterally- laterally offset to the first and second ~~toothings~~ toothings, as observed in cross-section, in such a manner that the second toothing, in the insertion direction of the coin, becomes disengaged from the first toothing downwardly in an arc-shape, or the second toothing engages in the first toothing from below in an arc-shape and wherein the switching arm is disposed exterior to the coin insertion channel.

2. (Currently Amended) Coin validator according to claim 1, characterised in that the switching device is an optical switching device which has a light ~~sensor~~ transmitter and a light receiver and also a switching arm acting on the light emitted from the light transmitter, said switching arm being releasably connected to the pendulum.

3. (Previously Presented) Coin validator according to claim 2, characterised in that the light transmitter and light receiver are disposed next to each other on a chip and form a reflection coupler, the switching arm, in its inoperative state, being opposite the reflection coupler in a fixed association in order to reflect the light emitted from the light transmitter.

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4. (Previously Presented) Coin validator according to claim 1, characterised in that the switching arm pivots in the same direction as the second tothing.

5. (Currently Amended) Coin validator according to claim 2, characterised in that the light transmitter and light receiver ~~or the~~ forming a reflection coupler, are mounted on a printed circuit board which is securely connected to the housing.

6. (Previously Presented) Coin validator according to claim 1, characterised in that the pendulum, on the side which is remote from the second tothing, has receiving projections for receiving a flat weight.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented) Coin validator according to claim 1, characterised in that the first tothing is configured in such a manner that an arcuate insertion of the second tothing from below is possible.

9. (Previously Presented) Coin validator according to claim 1, characterised in that the coin insertion funnel forms a form-fitting connection with the housing.